

REMARKS

Claims 10-16 and 21-24 are pending. The Examiner requires restriction of the present application to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 21-24, drawn to a reforming apparatus with reforming rooms connected in series, classified in class 422, subclass 192; and

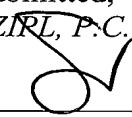
Group II: Claims 10-16, drawn to a reforming apparatus with reforming rooms connected in parallel, classified in class 422, subclass 196.

The Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct from each other and unrelated. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the different inventions can be used to practice different methods, and the apparatuses have different modes of operation. The Examiner also contends that it would be a serious burden on the Examiner to have to examine the two inventions in view of the separate status in the art as shown by different classifications.

Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 21-24, for further prosecution on the merits.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,
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